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## **MBDA Partners with HMSHost to Identify Minority Business Enterprises for Airport and Motorway Projects**

*New initiative to deliver short- and long-term business opportunities*

**Washington, DC** – The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) announces a new partnership with HMSHost Corporation (HMSHost) to create business opportunities for minority business enterprises (MBEs) at airports and motorway travel plazas throughout the United States. MBDA and HMSHost signed a Memorandum of Understanding to leverage each others resources to identify and provide technical assistance to minority-owned businesses interested in the operation of food, beverage and retail concessions, or in providing design, construction and other supply chain services.

With more than \$2.6 billion in annual sales, HMSHost is a world leader in creating dining and shopping for travel venues. HMSHost operates in more than 100 airports around the globe, including the 20 busiest airports in North America. The company also operates in more than 100 motorway travel plazas in North America.

"The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MBDA and HMSHost is a prime example of how the public and private sector can work together intelligently in support of common goals," said MBDA National Director Ronald N. Langston. "This partnership is aligned with MBDA's strategy to provide access to information, markets and capital to ensure minority-owned firms are fully integrated into the building and operation of America's airports and travel plazas."

MBDA's network of minority business centers and its strategic partners who have the expertise and experience to source minority firms will work with HMSHost to match eligible minority-owned firms with the business opportunities presented by HMSHost. Minority firms seeking to do business at a U.S. airport must be certified as an Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) or eligible to become ACDBE certified. MBDA's centers are also equipped to provide business managerial and technical assistance to minority business owners, including assistance with certification, bonding and accessing capital. As part of the new initiative, MBDA and HMSHost will conduct training sessions and business-to-business forums.

Langston further stated, "Construction, waste management, remediation services and retail have traditionally been popular industries for minority firms. This new partnership provides an opportunity for these types of firms, and others, to grow and prosper in the travel concessions industry with HMSHost. We look forward to an enduring and meaningful relationship for many years to come."

Minority entrepreneurs interested in obtaining MBDA services can contact a local MBDA regional office or an MBDA center. More information about this initiative, other MBDA programs and the locations of MBDA nationwide network of business centers can be found at the Agency's website at [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov).

**About the Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce**

Founded in 1969 and headquartered in Washington, DC, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. MBDA is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in this Nation. The Agency actively promotes the strategic growth and competitiveness of large, medium and small minority business enterprises. Statistics on minority businesses and resources to build minority businesses are available at [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov).